



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

HD

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/873,072

05/31/2001

Gianpaolo Callioni

HP-10011194

3975

7590 07/05/2007  
HEWLETT-PACKARD COMPANY  
Intellectual Property Administration  
P.O. Box 272400  
Fort Collins, CO 80527-2400

EXAMINER
----------

GRAHAM, CLEMENT B

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3692

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

07/05/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/873,072

Applicant(s)

CALLIONI ET AL.

Examiner

Clement B. Graham

Art Unit

3692

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-36 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

### DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 19-36 remain pending in this application.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 19-36, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lidow U.S Patent 6, 889, 197 Mandler et al (Hereinafter Mandler U.S Patent 5, 732, 400).

As per claim 19, Lidow discloses a process for providing a financial clearinghouse for a supply chain comprising the steps of:

a) defining a plurality of business units comprising the supply chain;

wherein said supply chain is a factor in determining a degree of financing for said business unit coordinating supply chain transactions by said financial clearinghouse between said plurality of the business units. (Note abstract and see column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Lidow fail to explicitly teach providing financing by a clearinghouse for at least one of said plurality of business unit.

However Mandler discloses in response to the RFQ message, the seller or sellers provide quotes for the requested goods to the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse gathers all of the quotes and forwards them to the buyer. The buyer identifies the desired goods and sellers, based on the responsive quotes, and the buyer sends a PO to the clearinghouse. After receiving the PO, the clearinghouse performs a hard authorization for final authorization of the transaction in the amount of the PO. The hard authorization, for example, involves a review of the risk classification and available credit line of the buyer to determine whether the clearinghouse 40 should authorize the transaction. Exemplary rules for responding to the hard authorization are shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B.(see column 9 lines 20-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lidow to include providing financing by a clearinghouse for at least one of said plurality of business unit taught by Mandler in order to provide financing by a clearinghouse.

As per claim 20, Lidow discloses wherein said supply chain transactions comprises at least one of the following:

payments for value-added services, payments for materials, payments for logistic services, credits for value-added services, credits for materials, credits for logistic services, transfer of raw materials, transfer of parts and components, transfer of finished products, transportation of materials, storage of materials, and the exchange of information.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 21, Lidow discloses a computer implemented method for providing a financial clearinghouse for a supply chain, said method comprising:

ordering a component, wherein a first node of a supply chain orders a manufacturing component from a second node of said supply chain and via a supply chain generating a bill for said manufacturing component by said second node; and coordinating a supply chain.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Lidow fail to explicitly teach transaction by said supply chain clearinghouse between said first node and said second node.

However Mandler discloses in response to the RFQ message, the seller or sellers provide quotes for the requested goods to the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse gathers all of the quotes and forwards them to the buyer. The buyer identifies the desired goods and sellers, based on the responsive quotes, and the buyer sends a PO to the clearinghouse. After receiving the PO, the clearinghouse performs a hard authorization for final authorization of the transaction in the amount of the PO. The hard authorization, for example, involves a review of the risk classification and available credit line of the buyer to determine whether the clearinghouse 40 should authorize the

Art Unit: 3692

transaction. Exemplary rules for responding to the hard authorization are shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B.(see column 9 lines 20-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lidow to include transaction by said supply chain clearinghouse between said first node and said second node taught by Mandler in order to provide financing by a clearinghouse.

As per claim 22, Lidow discloses wherein said supply chain clearinghouse (i. e, financier or bank”) coordinates the transfer of financial assets between accounts maintained by said supply chain clearinghouse and wherein said coordinating further comprises:

reconciling respective accounts of said first node and said second node; and transferring funds between said respective accounts in response to said reconciling. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 23, Lidow discloses further comprising: reconciling an account of said supply chain clearinghouse; and transferring funds between said respective accounts and said account of said.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Lidow fail to explicitly teach supply chain clearinghouse in response to said reconciling.

However Mandler discloses in response to the RFQ message, the seller or sellers provide quotes for the requested goods to the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse gathers all of the quotes and forwards them to the buyer. The buyer identifies the desired goods and sellers, based on the responsive quotes, and the buyer sends a PO to the clearinghouse. After receiving the PO, the clearinghouse performs a hard authorization for final authorization of the transaction in the amount of the PO. The hard authorization, for example, involves a review of the risk classification and available credit line of the buyer to determine whether the clearinghouse 40 should authorize the

Art Unit: 3692

transaction. Exemplary rules for responding to the hard authorization are shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B.(see column 9 lines 20-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lidow to include supply chain clearinghouse in response to said reconciling taught by Mandler in order to provide financing by a clearinghouse.

As per claim 24, Lidow discloses wherein said manufacturing component is selected from the group consisting essentially of raw materials, parts, components, and finished products. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35 and column).

As per claim 25, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: generating a payment for a transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of payment for a material, payment for a value-added service, and payment for logistic services. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 26, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: extending credit by said supply chain clearinghouse(i. e, financier or bank") for a transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of extending credit for a material, extending credit for a value-added service, and extending credit for logistic services.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 27, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: expediting a commercial transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of a purchase order, an acknowledgement, electronic billing, and proof of delivery.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 28, Lidow discloses further comprising: conveying ownership of said manufacturing component from said supply chain clearinghouse (i. e, financier or bank") to said first node.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Art Unit: 3692

As per claims 29-30, Lidow discloses a computer implemented method for providing a financial clearinghouse for a supply chain, said method comprising: ordering a component, wherein a first node of a supply chain orders a manufacturing component from a second node.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35) and generating a bill for said manufacturing component by said second node to a supply chain clearinghouse; and coordinating a supply chain transaction by said.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Lidow fail to explicitly teach supply chain clearinghouse between said first node and said second node and clearinghouse between said first node and said second node. However Mandler discloses in response to the RFQ message, the seller or sellers provide quotes for the requested goods to the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse gathers all of the quotes and forwards them to the buyer. The buyer identifies the desired goods and sellers, based on the responsive quotes, and the buyer sends a PO to the clearinghouse. After receiving the PO, the clearinghouse performs a hard authorization for final authorization of the transaction in the amount of the PO. The hard authorization, for example, involves a review of the risk classification and available credit line of the buyer to determine whether the clearinghouse 40 should authorize the transaction. Exemplary rules for responding to the hard authorization are shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B.(see column 9 lines 20-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lidow to include supply chain clearinghouse between said first node and said second node and clearinghouse between said first node and said second node taught by Mandler in order to provide financing by a clearinghouse.

As per claim 31, Lidow discloses wherein said supply chain clearinghouse(i. e, financier or bank") coordinates the transfer of financial assets between accounts maintained by said supply chain clearinghouse and wherein said coordinating further comprises:

Art Unit: 3692

transferring funds from an account of a respective account of said second node when said manufacturing component is sent to said first node; and transferring funds from a respective account of said first node to said account of said supply chain. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Lidow fail to explicitly teach supply chain clearinghouse and clearinghouse when said manufacturing component is received by said first node.

However Mandler discloses in response to the RFQ message, the seller or sellers provide quotes for the requested goods to the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse gathers all of the quotes and forwards them to the buyer. The buyer identifies the desired goods and sellers, based on the responsive quotes, and the buyer sends a PO to the clearinghouse. After receiving the PO, the clearinghouse performs a hard authorization for final authorization of the transaction in the amount of the PO. The hard authorization, for example, involves a review of the risk classification and available credit line of the buyer to determine whether the clearinghouse 40 should authorize the transaction. Exemplary rules for responding to the hard authorization are shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B.(see column 9 lines 20-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lidow to include supply chain clearinghouse and clearinghouse when said manufacturing component is received by said first node taught by Mandler in order to provide financing by a clearinghouse.

As per claim 32, Lidow discloses further comprising: transferring funds from said account of said supply chain clearinghouse(i. e, financier or bank") to a restricted account of said second node to pay for materials used by said second node; and transferring funds from said account of said supply chain clearinghouse to said restricted account of said second node to pay for logistics costs incurred by said second node .(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Lidow fail to explicitly teach supply chain clearinghouse to said restricted account of said second node to pay for logistics costs incurred by said second node.



Art Unit: 3692

However Mandler discloses in response to the RFQ message, the seller or sellers provide quotes for the requested goods to the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse gathers all of the quotes and forwards them to the buyer. The buyer identifies the desired goods and sellers, based on the responsive quotes, and the buyer sends a PO to the clearinghouse. After receiving the PO, the clearinghouse performs a hard authorization for final authorization of the transaction in the amount of the PO. The hard authorization, for example, involves a review of the risk classification and available credit line of the buyer to determine whether the clearinghouse 40 should authorize the transaction. Exemplary rules for responding to the hard authorization are shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B.(see column 9 lines 20-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lidow to include supply chain clearinghouse to said restricted account of said second node to pay for logistics costs incurred by said second node taught by Mandler in order to provide financing by a clearinghouse.

As per claim 33, Lidow discloses wherein said manufacturing component is selected from the group consisting essentially of raw materials, parts, components, and finished products.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 34, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: generating a payment for a transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of payment for a material, payment for a value-added service, and payment for logistic services.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

As per claim 35, Lidow discloses wherein said coordinating further comprises: expediting a commercial transaction selected from the group consisting essentially of a purchase order, an acknowledgement, electronic billing, and proof of delivery.(Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Art Unit: 3692

As per claim 36, Lidow discloses further comprising: conveying ownership of said manufacturing component from said. (Note abstract and see column 23 lines 64-67 and column 24 lines 1-7 and column 25 lines 33-67 and column 26 lines 1-8 and 37-35).

Lidow fail to explicitly teach supply chain clearinghouse to said first node.

However Mandler discloses in response to the RFQ message, the seller or sellers provide quotes for the requested goods to the clearinghouse. The clearinghouse gathers all of the quotes and forwards them to the buyer. The buyer identifies the desired goods and sellers, based on the responsive quotes, and the buyer sends a PO to the clearinghouse. After receiving the PO, the clearinghouse performs a hard authorization for final authorization of the transaction in the amount of the PO. The hard authorization, for example, involves a review of the risk classification and available credit line of the buyer to determine whether the clearinghouse 40 should authorize the transaction. Exemplary rules for responding to the hard authorization are shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B. (see column 9 lines 20-67).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Lidow to include supply chain clearinghouse to said first node taught by Mandler in order to provide financing by a clearinghouse.

### **Conclusion**

### **RESPONSE TO ARGUMENTS**

4. Applicant's arguments files on 10/2/2006 have been fully considered but they are moot in view of new grounds of rejection.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Clement B Graham whose telephone number is 703-305-1874. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am to 5pm.

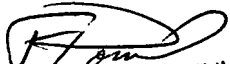
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hyung S. Sough can be reached on 703-308-0505. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-0040 for regular communications and 703-305-0040 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 3692

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

CG

June 16, 2007

  
FRANTZY POINVIL  
PRIMARY EXAMINER  
*AU 3692*